

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed November 24, 2005, the Examiner noted that claims 1-15 were pending, and rejected claims 1-15. Claims 1-5 and 7-15 have been amended, thus, in view of the forgoing claims 1-15 remain pending for reconsideration which is requested. No new matter has been added. The Examiner's rejections are traversed below.

On page 3 of the Action the Examiner objected to the specification and rejected claims 1, 4 and 7-15 under 35 U.S.C. section 112, paragraph 1 for failure to provide a written description with respect to the use of the term "centralized". The claims have been amended to substitute "undistributed" for this term. The Examiner is requested to see application page 2, line 22-page 3, line 3, page 6, line 2-page 7, line 18 and particularly pages 11-18 and the discussion of figure 3 where it is shown and described that the data is stored in storage 44 for the systems 15, 16, 17, 18 and 19. That is, the data for the systems 15-19 is not distributed among the systems 15-19 but held in storage 44 and, thus, is not distributed or is "undistributed" data. It is submitted that the application as filed provides a written description that describes the data for systems 15-19 as located in storage 44 and undistributed. Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

On page 8 of the Action the Examiner points to page 15 lines 1-3 of the application specification, selectively quotes there from and alleges that this portion indicates that the storage medium is distributed. This portion of the specification in full states:

Although in this example, the operation unit 43, storage medium 44, reference unit 41 and running unit 52 are distributed and installed among a plurality of systems, a part or all of these components can also be installed in one system. Furthermore, a part or all of these components can also be installed in a system with an exchange process unit.

(See application specification, page 14, line 25-page 15, line 6)

The Examiner has taken the noted portion of the specification out of context and when this portion is read as a whole and with figure 3, which is therein being discussed, in context, this part merely talks about the components 44, 51 and 52 being positioned or installed in different ones of the systems or being positioned in a single one of the systems. This says nothing about the medium 44 itself or the data thereon being distributed. That is, this part of the specification does not say that a part of a component or the contents of a component can be distributed. Such an interpretation would contradict the problems being discussed as being addressed (and solved) by the present invention on application specification page 2, line 13 - page 3, line 10, particularly problem "(2)".

In the Office Action the Examiner rejected claims 2-3 and 5-6 under 35 U.S.C. section 112 paragraph 2 as indefinite. This rejection is traversed in part. For example, the Examiner asserts that the use of the word "data" in the claims is indefinite alleging lack of clarity between "data" and "information" and pointing to claim 3 as an example. Claim 3 particularly recites: "input identification information related to each piece of input data". It is submitted that this recitation makes it clear that the information is related to the data. Withdrawal of this aspect of the rejection is requested. The claims have been amended in consideration of the Examiner's other comments and it is submitted they satisfy the requirements of the statute. If additional concerns with the claims arise, the Examiner is invited to telephone to resolve the same. Suggestions by the Examiner are also welcome. Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

On page 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 4 and 7-13 under 35 U.S.C. section 102 as anticipated by Nakagaki. Page 6 of the Office Action rejects claims 14 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Nakagaki and Oku.

Nakagaki is directed to a system that distributes storage of process information over various systems. As stated in Nakagaki:

It is an object of the invention to provide an information processing method ... when information is distributed

(See Nakagaki col. 3, lines 54-59)

Because Nakagaki distributes the information and a system receiving the process information can further distribute the process information, to find the information it must be traced. As stated by Nakagaki:

When an instruction for tracing the distribution route of the information X is given Upon reception of the instruction for tracing the distribution route ... and instructs the information intervention systems C and D to which the information X was distributed to trace the distribution route of the information X. ... The information intervention system B returns the distribution histories recorded ... whereby the information intervention system A can know that the information X was distributed as shown in FIG. 4. Thus, the information intervention system A can analyze the distribution route, distribution range, etc., of the information X.

(See Nakagaki, col. 11, line 63 - col. 12, line 21)

The present invention recognizes this tracking or tracing problem:

Since history information must be stored in data, a process history stored in data to be tracked must be confirmed when a process history is tracked. In this case, if data distributed among a plurality of systems are tracked, each system must be accessed and a process history stored in data must be confirmed. Therefore, a

communications process becomes complex and it cannot necessarily be said to be a general method.

(See Application, page 2, line 22 - page 3, line 3)

The present invention solves the Nakagaki tracking or tracing problem (as well as the problem noted above and discussed in the background of the invention) by having the data undistributed ("recording the process information of the specific system in an undistributed shared storage ... that collectively and undistributively stores ... process information" - claim 1).

The Examiner cites Oku for it's alleged teachings of a business transaction. Oku does not teach or suggest anything about an undistributed storage of transaction process history of business transactions.

It is submitted that the invention of the independent claims 1, 2, 4, 5 and 7-15 distinguishes over the prior art and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

It is submitted that the claims satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112. It is also submitted that claims 2, 3, 5 and 6 continue to be allowable over the prior art. It is further submitted that the claims are not taught, disclosed or suggested by the prior art. The claims are therefore in a condition suitable for allowance. An early Notice of Allowance is requested.

If any further fees, other than and except for the issue fee, are necessary with respect to this paper, the U.S.P.T.O. is requested to obtain the same from deposit account number 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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